



**BEAR FLAG . . .** Assemblyman L. E. Townsend displays a certificate which verifies that the California flag he had presented moments earlier to the Youth Band Color Guard has been flown over the State Capitol Building. Flanking Townsend are members of the Torrance Youth Band Color Guard (from left) Dale Townsend, Vicki Manion, and Donna Ambrosoli. The Bear Flag will be carried by the Youth Band at the opening of the California Exposition in Sacramento.

## Navy Offers Construction Men Seabee Reserve Posts

The U.S. Naval Seabee Reserves now offer special ratings for construction men, according to Chief D. F. Clutter, U. S. Naval Reserve Training Center, 4455 W. 126th St., Hawthorne.

Men in the Seabees work and train in all aspects of construction work. This includes equipment operators, mechanics, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, steelworkers, painters, and many other construction trades.

required, according to Chief Clutter. The basic requirements include physical and mental aptitude, a 1-C, IV-V or V-A classification with the Selective Service, no prior Navy or Naval Reserve experience within the preceding two years in any construction rating, and a present job in the construction field.

Normal completion of the Naval training courses and required time will enable reserve Seabees to advance in rate. Approximately 50 per cent of the training is spent

in the field, and the remaining time is spent at the trade center. Two weeks a year are also spent on active duty.

**THERE IS A** pay-scale incentive and also a retirement program. For example, a petty officer with four years service draws \$9.50 for drill and \$38.50 per weekend.

This program is not restricted to former Navy Personnel; former members of any service may apply, as well as men with no prior service.

**THERE ARE NO** tests re-

## Audit Turns Up \$7.7 Million in Added Tax Funds

County Assessor Philip E. Watson has announced that \$84,000,000 in escape penalty assessments were added to the assessment roll as a result of the 1967-68 audit of business property affidavits conducted by his audit staff.

An extra \$204,000,000 in solvent credits was also revealed in the audit findings, for a total additional tax collection of approximately \$7,750,000 for local taxing agencies, Watson said.

In the five years Watson's department has been auditing business property declarations, a total of approximately \$274 million in additional assessed value and \$570 million in solvent credits has been recovered by the county, for a five-year additional tax collection of almost \$24,000,000.

**THIS PAST** year's audits involved 7,300 documents with a total of \$82,200,000 in escape assessments and only \$1,800,000 in penalties. Watson said there has been a sharp decline in penalties, primarily because of a further statutory reduction in the amount of penalty that can be levied.

State law now prescribes a flat 25 per cent penalty for willful underreporting. This is a reduction from a 50 per cent penalty allowed last year and a change in the law which originally allowed penalties of up to 1,000 per cent.

Watson's audit program was begun in 1963, his first year in office, under state law which left auditing up to the policy of the individual assessor. Under provisions of AB 180, passed in 1966, assessors

must audit, at least once every four years, businesses with a market value in personal property of more than \$50,000.

**AFTER THE** mandatory audit program was passed, the six other southern counties of the state joined together with Los Angeles County in a joint-county audit program in which one county audits for all the counties in which a company is doing business. This saves time and money for both the counties and the businesses being audited since a single audit trip can do the job of several.

Marvin Blatt, chief of the Los Angeles County Audit Division, is now serving his second year as president of the Joint-County Audit Program. He reports that 280 joint audits were performed during the first year of the program. It is anticipated that a larger work load will be performed in 1968-69 as the program gets into maximum production.

Watson pointed out that the cooperative audit program represents a real savings to the taxpayer. The state board makes out-of-county audit service available to any county, but the average state board audit charge is just under \$400 per audit, while cost per audit in the joint program has averaged only \$64.

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